

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Angeles National Forest



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**701 N. Santa Anita Avenue
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FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

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ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST REOPENS

Arcadia, CA... The Angeles National Forest is open, effective immediately, according to Forest Supervisor Jody Cook. "Over night, the Forest received over an inch of rain, and more is anticipated this weekend. I want to thank everyone for their cooperation and patience during the six-week Forest Closure. I am pleased to be able to reopen the Forest," said Cook.

Fire restrictions, which were instituted in July, will remain in effect. Open fires are not allowed anywhere on the Forest and jellied or liquid fuel stoves can be used only in drive-in developed picnic areas and campsites. "Record setting drought conditions have caused an extreme fire danger situation this season, and it may not be over yet," according to Don Feser, Forest Fire Management Officer.

The Forest Closure was put into effect September 24, 2002, due to extreme fire danger. At that time the Williams Fire was burning north of the cities of Azusa, San Dimas La Verne Claremont and Glendora. That fire devastated more that 38,100 acres.

State Highway 39 is open to two miles north of the East Fork Bridge. The highway above that point remains closed, due to Cal Trans work on the road on railings. Damage occurred following the Curve Fire, which started September 1, 2002 and burned over 20,800 acres. Glendora Mountain Road and Glendora Ridge Road remain closed. The Forest Closure for the burned area of the Stables, Bouquet and Copper fires, on the Santa Clara Mojave Rivers Ranger District, remains in effect through September 2, 2003, for rehabilitation purposes.

In light of the recent fires, the risk of flooding, and mud slides are high within burned areas. Cook stressed, "Forest users need to use extreme caution if entering burned areas, especially in the San Gabriel and San Dimas Canyons".

Note: For Information about the San Bernardino National Forest, contact (909) 866-3437, ext. 3610.

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